

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OPIC-03 SAM-01 IO-10 (ISO) W

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P R 251714Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3404

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRID 7475

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SS, MO, SP, UN

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA: SAHARA ROUND-UP

REF: MADRID 7364

SUMMARY: MOROCCAN FONMIN LARAKI HELD THREE-HOUR MEETING WITH
PREMIER ARIAS OCT 24 AND MORNING OF OCT 25. MIN OF INFORMATION
AND TOURISM SAID THE SAME EVENING THAT LAW HAD BEEN SUBMITTED
TO "CORTES" EMPOWERING GOVT TO TAKE ANY ACTION DEEMED NECESSARY
TO DECOLONIZE SAHARA. HE ALSO SAID GOS STOOD BY POLICY
COMMUNICATED TO UNSYG MAY 23,1975 TO DECOLONIZE UNDER UN
AUSPICES WHILE MAINTAINING DIALOGUE WITH INTERESTED PARTIES;
FAILING THIS GOS RESERVED RIGHT TO TAKE UNILATERAL ACTION.
MEDIA NOTE THAT MOROCCAN MARCH HAS BEEN POSTPONED BUT THAT
MAURITANIAN TRIBES HAVE STARTED ASSEMBLING IN SOUTHERN PART
OF SAHARA. EXODUS OF EUROPEANS FROM SAHARA HAS BEEN UNDERWAY
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FOR SEVERAL DAYS AND ON-THE-SCENE OBSERVERS REPORT THAT SHOPS

ARE HOLDING CLOSE-OUT SALES AND IN SOME CASES CLOSING DOWN.
END SUMMARY

1. MOROCCAN FONMIN LARAKI WAS MET AT AIRPORT BY NATIONAL MOVEMENT MINISTER SOLIS. IN MADRID, FOLLOWING A HALF-HOUR CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN CORTINA, HE PROCEEDED TO PRESIDENCY FOR THREE-HOUR MEETING WITH ARIAS. IN ARRIVAL STATEMENT, LARAKI REFERRED TO HISTORIC TIES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES AND USEFULNESS OF OPEN DIALOGUE. SOLIS SAID THAT HIS MISSION WAS CONSISTENT WITH POLICY LAID DOWN BY CORTINA WHO WAS "CAPTAIN OF THE SHIP". LARAKI ALSO MET WITH ARIAS IN THE MORNING OF OCT 25. GOVT RELEASED STATEMENT OCT 25 SAYING THAT GOS AND MOROCCO WERE SEEKING WAY TO RESOLVE SAHARAN ISSUE IN CONFORMITY WITH SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION.

2. MIN OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM HAD LENGTHY BRIEFING FOR PRESS REPS LATE OCT 24. HE TOLD THEM THAT GOS POLICY ON SAHARA CONTINUED TO FOLLOW GUIDELINES SET DOWN IN LETTER OF MAY 23 TO UNSYG. MAIN POINTS WERE DECOLONIZATION THROUGH THE UN ALLOWING FOR TALKS WITH "INTERESTED PARTIES". IF SOLUTION COULD NOT BE FOUND THROUGH THESE CHANNELS THEN GOS RESERVED RIGHT TO TAKE UNILATERAL ACTION.

3. PRESS AND TV HAVE REPORTED THAT MOROCCAN MARCH HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL OCT 31 ALTHOUGH 10,000 MARCHERS HAVE ALLEGEDLY REACHED TARFAYA, ADJACENT TO MOROCCAN/SAHARAN BORDER. MEANWHILE, REPORTS FROM EL AIUUN INDICATE THAT SOME NOMADIC TRIBES WITH TIES TO MAURITANIA HAVE BEEN ASSEMBLING IN SOUTHERN SAHARA ALLEGEDLY TO SET OUT ON MARCH TO ONE OF LEADING POPULATION CENTER, E.G., VILLA CISNEROS OR EL AIUUN.

4. INTERNAL SITUATION IN SAHARA SHOWS SIGNS OF CONFUSION. SEVERAL SPECIAL FLIGHTS HAVE ARRIVED IN MADRID CARRYING EUROPEANS EVACUATING EL AIUUN IN THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS. ON-THE-SCENE CORRESPONDENTS REPORT THAT SHOP OWNERS HAVE BEEN HOLDING CLOSING SALES AND IN SOME CASES HAVE ALREADY LEFT FOR SPAIN OR THE CANARY ISLANDS.
STABLER

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